

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 3 and amend the claims as follows.

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for correcting errors for consensus decoding of speech, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a confusion set comprising a plurality of candidate words, each of said candidate words having an associated score and corresponding to an acoustic event; and

selecting a candidate word from the confusion set as a word recognized for the acoustic event, wherein a candidate word other than a candidate word having a highest associated score is selected when one or more criteria are met; and

outputting the selected candidate word as the word recognized for the acoustic event.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a candidate word further comprises the step of applying a rule to the confusion set, the rule determining which of the candidate words is selected.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of applying further comprises the steps of:

applying the rule to the confusion set when a candidate word in the confusion set has a posterior probability that is not greater than a predetermined threshold, wherein the step of applying selects one of the candidate words in the confusion set; and

selecting the candidate word having the posterior probability that is greater than a predetermined threshold when this candidate word has a posterior probability that is greater than a predetermined threshold.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
determining a plurality of allowable transformations on a plurality of  
training confusion sets;  
providing an objective function; and  
learning a plurality of corrective rules for the training confusion sets, the  
step of learning using the allowable transformations and objective function.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step  
of learning when to select a candidate word other than a candidate word having a highest  
associated score.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said associated score is a  
posterior probability.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a  
candidate word further comprises the step of employing a data classifier.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the data classifier is a decision-  
tree.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a plurality of corrective  
rules from a plurality of training confusion sets, the method comprising the steps of:  
determining a plurality of allowable transformations on the training  
confusion sets, each training confusion set comprising a plurality of candidate words  
determined from utterances of one or more individuals;  
providing an objective function; and  
learning a plurality of corrective rules for the training confusion sets, the  
step of learning using the allowable transformations and objective function.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:  
determining a real-time confusion set; and  
applying at least one of the corrective rules to the real-time confusion set.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 11, wherein the real-time confusion set comprises a plurality of second candidate words, and wherein the step of applying further comprises:  
~~determining a real time confusion set;~~  
determining if a second candidate word has a posterior probability that is greater than a predetermined threshold;  
applying at least one of the corrective rules to the real-time confusion set when the second candidate word has a posterior probability that is not greater than a predetermined threshold, wherein the step of applying selects one of the second candidate words in the confusion set;  
selecting the second candidate word having the posterior probability that is greater than a predetermined threshold when the second candidate word has a posterior probability that is greater than a predetermined threshold; and  
outputting the selected second candidate word.  

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of learning further comprises the steps of:  
extracting a plurality of features from each of the training confusion sets, each of the features mathematically describing a characteristic of an associated one of the confusion sets.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the features comprise one or more of the following:  
word identity of at least one of the plurality of candidate word words in a training confusion set;  
duration of at least one of the plurality of candidate word words in a training confusion set;

posterior probability of at least one of the plurality of candidate ~~word~~  
words in a training confusion set;

difference in posterior probabilities of two of the plurality of candidate words in a training confusion set;

temporal position of a training confusion set in a sentence comprising a plurality of training confusion sets; and

number of the plurality of candidate words in a training confusion set.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein each of the allowable transformations comprises a template rule, wherein the step of learning further comprises the step of:

instantiating a plurality of template rules, each of the template rules having a form wherein one of the plurality of candidate ~~word~~  
words of a confusion set is selected if at least one predetermined criterion is met, each criterion comprising a selected feature, an operation and a threshold value for the selected feature.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

providing a baseline predictor;

selecting a training confusion set;

determining which of the template rules are applicable to the selected training confusion set, whereby each applicable rule is a candidate rule;

determining values of the features in each of the at least one predetermined criteria, the values determined from the selected training confusion set;

scoring each of the candidate rules by using the objective function;

selecting a highest scoring candidate rule;

applying the highest scoring candidate rule to the baseline predictor to create a modified consensus hypothesis; and

selecting the highest scoring candidate rule as a corrective rule.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10\_16, wherein the method further comprise the step of providing a truth, the truth indicating a correct word for each of the training confusion sets, wherein the step of scoring comprises the steps of:

selecting a candidate rule;

for each of the training confusion sets, performing the following steps:

determining if the selected candidate rule chooses or does not choose a correct word, as determined from the truth, from the candidate words in the corresponding one of the confusion sets;

providing a value determined from a number of incorrect words selected subtracted by a number of correct words selected.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for correcting errors for consensus decoding of speech, comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

create a confusion set comprising a plurality of candidate words, each of said candidate words having an associated score and corresponding to an acoustic event; and

select a candidate word from the confusion set as a word recognized for the acoustic event, wherein a candidate word other than a candidate word having a highest associated score is selected when one or more criteria are met; and

output the selected candidate word as the word recognized for the acoustic event.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for determining a plurality of corrective rules from a plurality of training confusion sets, comprising:

a memory that stores computer-readable code; and

a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code configured to:

determine a plurality of allowable transformations on the training confusion sets, each training confusion set comprising a plurality of candidate words determined from utterances of one or more individuals;

provide an objective function; and

learn a plurality of corrective rules for the training confusion sets, the step of learning using the allowable transformations and objective function.

20. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for correcting errors for consensus decoding of speech, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to create a confusion set comprising a plurality of candidate words, each of said candidate words having an associated score and corresponding to an acoustic event; and

a step to select a candidate word from the confusion set as a word recognized for the acoustic event, wherein a candidate word other than a candidate word having a highest associated score is selected when one or more criteria are met; and

a step to output the selected candidate word as the word recognized for the acoustic event.

21. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for determining a plurality of corrective rules from a plurality of training confusion sets, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:

a step to determine a plurality of allowable transformations on the training confusion sets, each training confusion set comprising a plurality of candidate words determined from utterances of one or more individuals;

a step to provide an objective function; and

a step to learn a plurality of corrective rules for the training confusion sets, the step of learning using the allowable transformations and objective function.

22. (Currently Amended) A system for correcting errors for consensus decoding of speech, comprising:

means for creating a confusion set comprising a plurality of candidate words, each of said candidate words having an associated score and corresponding to an acoustic event; and

means for selecting a candidate word from the confusion set as a word recognized for the acoustic event, wherein a candidate word other than a candidate word having a highest associated score is selected when one or more criteria are met; and

means for outputting the selected candidate word as the word recognized for the acoustic event.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for determining a plurality of corrective rules from a plurality of training confusion sets, comprising:

means for determining a plurality of allowable transformations on the training confusion sets, each training confusion set comprising a plurality of candidate words determined from utterances of one or more individuals;

means for providing an objective function; and

means for learning a plurality of corrective rules for the training confusion sets, the step of learning using the allowable transformations and objective function.